

VBH BOT FYI HEBG

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To: Dolores Trandel
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Water research vital to county
By Lawrence Synett / Chicago Tribune Local reporter 8/16/10

McHenry County needs to extensively monitor and research groundwater because of its importance to residents, and the work is being noticed regionally and nationally.

"We are not fortunate enough to be able to take water from Lake Michigan ...," McHenry County Board Chairman Ken Koehler said. "It is a precious resource and once you've goofed it up, it's hard to fix."

Dealing with an increase in groundwater pumping continues to be a major focus as does the potential for contamination due to an increase in population and business activity.

"As one of the leaders in the country in studying groundwater, we are trying to figure out exactly how many shallow and deep aquifers we have, and how much water we will have for the future," Koehler said.

Research efforts include the installation of a countywide observation well network equipped with real-time water level and telemetry equipment, two stream gauges in the Kishwaukee River Watershed, and a water quality analysis of the Observation Well Network.

Rep. Don Manzullo (R-Egan) said the preservation of abundant, safe groundwater supplies is especially vital for residents.

"This program is a model for the region, the state and the nation on how to bring together local communities, federal and state partners to help conserve our water resources in growing population where there is a limited supply," he said.

The county will honor Manzullo's efforts to help secure funding for the water research during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road in Crystal Lake.

"This is an important endeavor we are taking on and a lot of credit goes to (Rep.) Manzullo," Koehler said.

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